

Texas Department of Agriculture  
Texas Capital Fund  
Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP)

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** What is the purpose of the Downtown Revitalization Program?

**A:** The Downtown Revitalization Program is intended to stimulate economic growth through the funding of public infrastructure improvements to aid in the elimination of slum and blight conditions in the historic downtown areas of rural communities.

**Q:** How often can I apply for grants for the Downtown Revitalization Program?

**A:** Applications will be accepted once a year – date to be announced.

**Q:** Can my city apply for more than one grant at a time?

**A:** No, each city may submit only one application per application round.

**Q:** Will there be workshops to assist the cities with administration of the contract?

**A:** Yes, TDA will offer a grant administration workshop for the award cities each round.

**Q:** How long does reimbursement for construction expenses take?

**A:** If the contract is in compliance the average time for draw processing is approximately three weeks.

**Q:** What is the maximum amount of funds a city may receive?

**A:** \$150,000.

**Q:** What can the money be used for?

**A:** Public infrastructure improvements, acquisition of needed land, water & sewer facilities/lines, road/street construction/improvements, natural gas line construction/improvements, electric, telephone, & fiber optic line construction/improvements, traffic signals and signs drainage improvements, sidewalk construction/improvements, including ADA ramps and rails, lighting, public parking lot construction/improvements, other construction activities required to eliminate architectural barriers for the handicapped.

**Q:** May the funds be used to pay engineering for the project.

**A:** No, but the engineering may be part of the community match.

**Q:** Who is eligible?

**A:** The program is only available to “non-entitlement” city governments. Non-entitlement cities do not receive direct funding from HUD and typically include cities with a population of less than 50,000. Awarded cities receive funds to make public infrastructure improvements in the designated historic, downtown business district. Projects must meet the national objective of aiding in the elimination of slum and/or blighted conditions identified by city resolution. The improvements must directly support the revitalization of the city's designated downtown

area. Main Street cities are not eligible for this funding. Contact TDA if you have any questions as to eligibility.

**Q:** Are funds available to pay someone to do the administration of the contract?

**A:** Yes, \$15,000 of grant funds may be used for administration purposes. These funds may be used to pay a city employee for time spent administering the contract, or it may be used to hire an outside administrator.

**Q:** Can the funds be used for projects on our commercial strip, which has a higher occupancy rate than our original commercial district?

**A:** No, the funds are to be used in the city's designated downtown area. This is typically the historic business area of the city.

**Q:** How long do we have to complete the project?

**A:** The contract period is two years from the execution date of the contract.

**Q:** How long after the application is submitted will the city receive a contract?

**A:** The eight highest scoring applications will be processed for award. The average time from receipt of applications to a contract being sent to the city for signature is approximately 90 days.

**For further information or assistance, please contact:**

**Texas Department of Agriculture**

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